

Outlaws battle back for five-set match win

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Lady Outlaws went down 0-2 at home against Philomath on Tuesday, October 15, but battled back to win the final three straight sets and post a victory. Two days later, Sisters was back on track and tallied a sweep on the road against Stayton.

In Tuesday's home match the Outlaws couldn't get into an offensive rhythm, and the first two sets were marked by frazzled play that included weak passes and ineffective hits — a much different start than in their previous matches where they easily swept their opponents.

The Warriors, who are currently third in league, hit the floor ready for battle, and their block caused the Outlaws a lot of frustration. Sisters struggled to hit around the block and couldn't keep their attacks in the court. While the sets were close, the Outlaws never got in sync and the Warriors took the first two sets with scores of 25-22, 25-22.

With the match on the

line, the Outlaws regrouped and were a different team in the third set. They played with renewed confidence and played smarter. Sisters found holes in the Warrior's defense and used each well-placed ball to gain momentum. The Warriors didn't give up, and the final three sets were battles to the very end, but the Outlaws came out on top with final scores of 25-18, 25-20, and 15-13.

Setter Ellie Rush said, "After those first two losses, I could feel a difference on the court. Everyone showed they wanted it more and worked their hardest to make sure we weren't going down. In those last three sets our passes were better, and hitting was a lot stronger. At the end of the fifth we knew we were the stronger team and knew we could finish strong. We kept pushing, and got the outcome we'd hoped for."

Greta Davis told *The Nugget* the Outlaws really picked things up in the third set with a very strong offense.

"We were finally doing a lot of things right," said

Davis. "We had the momentum and were finally hitting balls into the court. We won the third and fourth sets with lots of momentum and energy. The fifth set is my favorite part of volleyball and it was close all the way to the end with lots of momentum shifts. We played very well as a team and had a phenomenal offense even with their massive block. From this game we truly realized that momentum wins games and volleyball is really a game of mistakes."

Sisters adjusted to a new rotation and new roles and pulled off the five-set win in battle against a tough Warrior squad.

Coach Rory Rush said, "It is always hard to adjust to a new lineup, and having to do it against Philomath just added a little extra stress. Once we relaxed and refocused our game plan, the girls regained their confidence. Slowly, point by point, we felt more and more comfortable with our new rotation. This was our first five-set match all season. It was a great game for both teams, and was



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Rianna McGonagle sets the ball for the Outlaws.

great for us to show grit and determination!"

Greta Davis had 20 kills, five blocks and two aces in the match and Sophie Silva had 21 kills, one block, and two aces. Addy Myhre had nine kills and Sam Silva added six.

Two days later, the Outlaws were back to business, and recorded an easy sweep against the Eagles on

the road with scores of 25-13, 25-12, and 25-13. Sisters stepped onto the floor with confidence after their great win over Philomath. They quickly found their groove and put the ball in the court.

Davis led the team with 14 kills, followed by Sam Silva who recorded 11. Sophie Silva and Natalie Sitz both had six kills in the match.

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